

REMARKS

The Applicant thanks the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-16 are pending. Claims 1, 5, 8, 10, and 14 are independent and each is amended herewith. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

Acknowledgement of Information Disclosure Statement

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has acknowledged the Information Disclosure Statement filed on August 1, 2002.

Amendment to the Specification

The specification is amended at page 12, lines 15-17 to correct a typographical error.

Objection to the Drawings

One sheet of revised formal drawings is attached herewith to properly label guide member 24 in Fig. 2.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

Claims 1-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Stockman et al. (U.S. 5,774,617). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amendments to Independent Claims 1, 5, 8, 10, and 14

While not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance prosecution of the instant application, independent claim 1 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to an insert provided within a fiber management tool, including at least one concave-shaped arcuate portion, and at least one curved member having a convex-shaped curved portion that forms a channel with the at least one arcuate portion of the fiber optic cable management tool.

Independent claim 5 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a fiber optic cable insert, including a third curved member having first and second curved portions which join each other at a point between the first curved member and the second curved member.

Independent claim 8 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a fiber optic cable insert, including at least one curved member having first, second, and third curved portions, the first, second, and third curved portions having radii that exceed a minimum bend radius of a fiber optic cable to be guided by the insert, at least two of the curved portions being concave-shaped.

Independent claim 10 is amended herein to recite a combination of elements directed to a fiber optic cable management system, including at least one concave-shaped arcuate portion disposed on the base portion, and a protruding member extending from the base portion to permit manual grasping of said at least one fiber optic cable management tool; and at least one insert removably provided within said at least one fiber optic cable management tool and having at least one curved member having a convex-shaped curved portion that forms a

channel with the at least one arcuate portion of said at least one fiber optic cable management tool.

Independent claim 14 is amended herein to recite a combination of steps directed to a method for reducing a width of a channel provided in a fiber optic cable management tool, including the step of providing an insert within the fiber optic cable management tool, the insert having at least one curved member having at least two concave-shaped curved portions, at least one of which reduces the width of the channel provided in the fiber optic cable management tool.

By contrast, the Applicant respectfully submits that the combinations of elements and method steps set forth in independent claims 1, 5, 8, 10, and 14 as amended herein, are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Stockman et al.

As can be seen in Attachment 1 provided by the Examiner in the Office Action, the Stockman et al. document merely discloses curved members having convex curves. For the Examiner's convenience, the Applicants have included Attachment 1 of the Office Action with this Amendment pointing out the convex curves. As can be seen, Stockman et al. is completely silent, for example, about any of the Stockman et al. elements having concave curves, as set forth in the presently claimed invention.

In view of the above described amendments and arguments, the Applicant respectfully submits that the combinations of elements and method steps set forth in independent claims 1, 5, 8, 10, and 14 are not disclosed or made obvious by the prior art of record, including Stockman et al., at least for the reasons explained above.

Therefore, claims 1, 5, 8, 10, and 14 are in condition for allowance. Further, the dependent claims are in condition for allowance due to their dependency from allowable independent claims, or due to the additional novel limitations set forth therein.

Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) are respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

Since the remaining patents cited by the Examiner have not been utilized to reject claims, but merely to show the state of the art, no comment need be made with respect thereto.

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 205-8000.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.17 and 1.136(a), Applicant respectfully petitions for a three (3) month extension of time for filing a response in connection with the present application and the required fee of \$950 is being filed concurrently herewith.

Application No. 09/916,364
Amendment dated February 10, 2004
Reply to Office Action of November 20, 2002

Docket No. 4450-0411P
Art Unit: 2839
Page 13 of 13

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By




Michael R. Cammarata, #39,491

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000


MRC/CTT/ags

Attachments: One (1) sheet of a revised drawing showing changes in red ink
One (1) Replacement Sheet of revised formal drawings
Marked-up version of Attachment 1 of Office Action

Attachment 1

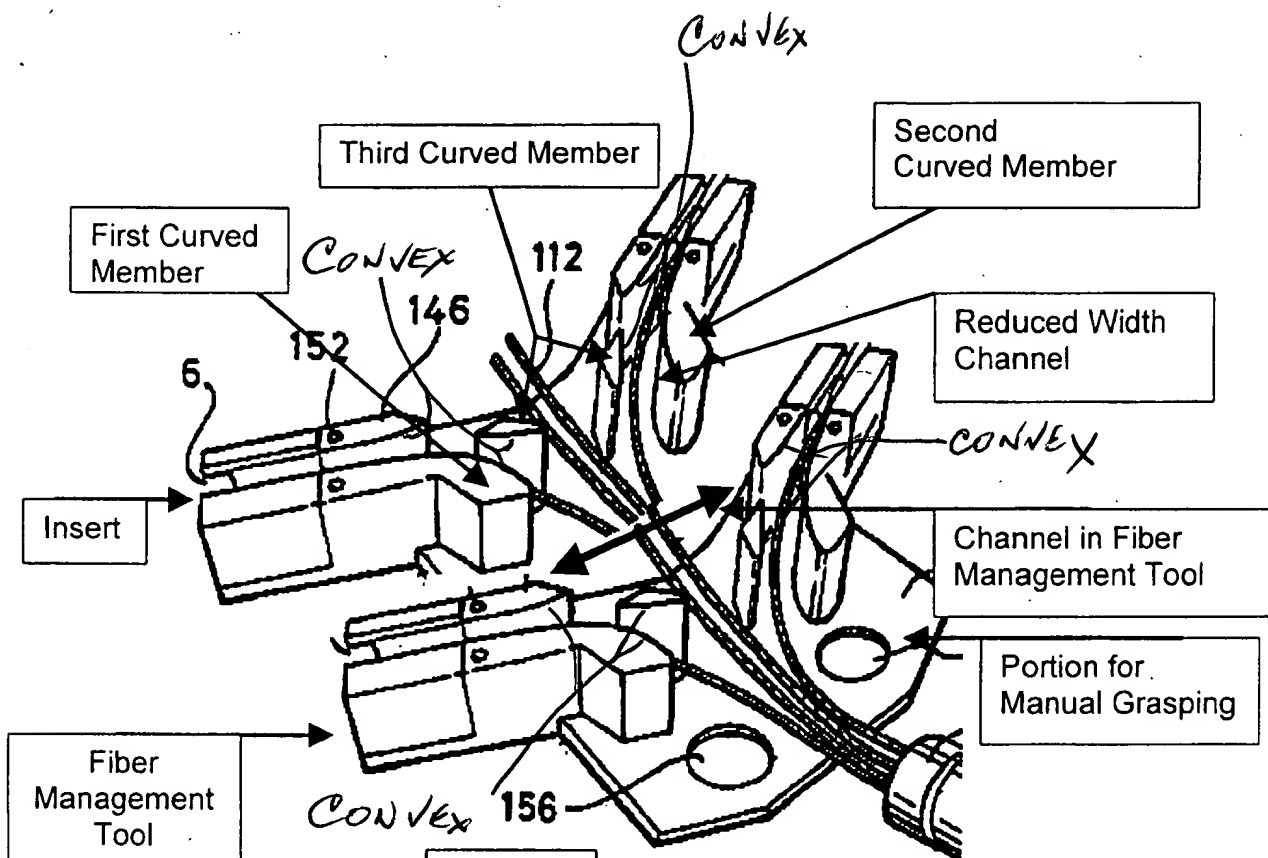


Fig. 7

- copied and superimposed to show a cutaway view of the assembly in Fig. 6

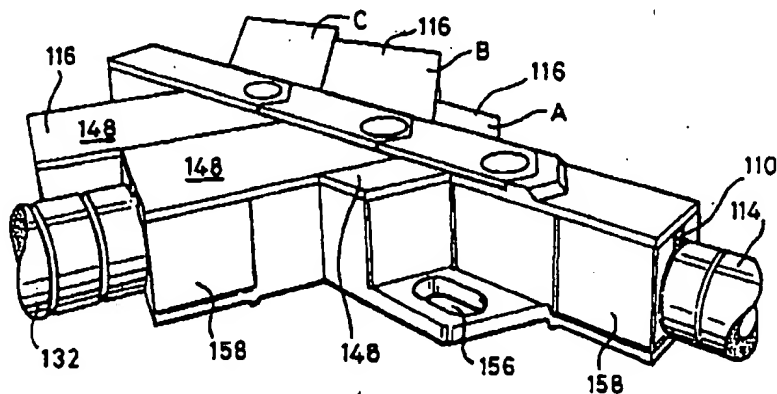


Fig. 6

